

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 682

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor Mrs. Diane Gueck upon the occasion of her induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor a remarkable professional who has rendered valuable service to the Tennessee Walking Horse industry, one of the Volunteer State's largest and most successful enterprises in terms of agriculture, commerce, tourism, and equine sports; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration is the premier event for the Tennessee Walking Horse; spanning eleven days and nights prior to Labor Day and encompassing exciting competition, the Celebration annually awards more than \$650,000 in prize money and crowns the breed's World Grand Champion and some twenty World Champions; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration (TWHNC) will be inducting a select group of worthy individuals in the TWHNC Hall of Fame during a gala evening at Calsonic Arena on the Celebration grounds in Shelbyville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the TWHNC Hall of Fame ceremony is held biennially to specially honor and recognize those sterling professionals who "have made significant and outstanding contributions to the Walking Horse industry and the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration" during "fifteen or more years involvement with the breed"; and

WHEREAS, the exemplary 2008 class of TWHNC Hall of Fame inductees most appropriately includes Diane Gueck, who has served the Walking Horse industry with distinction in numerous capacities for more than twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, born in Briston, England, Mrs. Gueck has always been “horse crazy”; she has been realizing her childhood dream of riding horses since she was twelve-years-old when her parents finally allowed her to ride at a rental stable; and

WHEREAS, at the rental stable, they soon noticed Diane Gueck had a special talent with horses, and so, she began helping the stable owner and customers with horses; she quickly learned to ride and train jumping horses and steeplechasers and started to earn a number of first place finishes at equestrian competitions. By the time she was sixteen, Mrs. Gueck purchased her first horse, a bay mare named Sheba, and showed it in pony hunter trials; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Bristol Central Commercial school with a business degree, Diane Gueck immigrated to Klamath Falls, Oregon in the United States, where she learned the western style of riding; and

WHEREAS, in Klamath Falls, Mrs. Gueck introduced the English riding style and established the first horse show there, which is still running today; she also met her husband of forty-five years, Gayle Gueck, in the Oregon town, and this blessed union produced a son, Stephen, and a daughter, Sharon; and

WHEREAS, after her children were born, Diane Gecko began training Saddlebreds and Arabians when she met Louis Tippet, who asked her to work his horse that was a horse breed she had never heard of, the Tennessee Walking Horse; Mrs. Gueck quickly learned the intricacies and idiosyncrasies of working with this horse breed and soon began showing Tennessee Walkers; and

WHEREAS, Diane Gueck had trained her daughter, Sharon, to ride Tennessee Walkers by the time she was six-years-old, and her riding skills impressed then president of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association, Sid Maddux, who sent the Guecks a filly that turned out to be three-time World Grand Champion Plantation mare, Wonder Lady’s Delight; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gueck opened her own barn, Cheveaux Training Stables, in 1970, where Sharon garnered the barn international recognition by winning three World Grand Champions by the time she was seventeen-years-old; and

WHEREAS, making Cheveaux Training Stables a true family affair, Diane Gueck put her son, Stephen, in charge of handling all of the barn's video and DVD production; with this invaluable family support, Mrs. Gueck has been able to rise to the top of the industry by winning three World Grand Championships, two Reserve World Grand Championships, and thirty-one World Championships; and

WHEREAS, she has also had the privilege and distinction of working with such noteworthy horses as Wonder Lady's Delight, Dance The Night Away, Gold Fever, Generator's Rock & Roll, A Beam Come True, and Magic's Pride & Joy, a horse that has won an incredible twenty-six world champion titles and was the first ever Celebration Super Horse in 1990 and 1991; and

WHEREAS, during her illustrious career, Diane Gueck herself has won numerous International Championships, trained seven Supreme Versatility Champions, and coached many top youth and equitation riders, including International champions Jenny Calkins and Kim Biehler and reserve World Champions, Kara Bentley and Jennifer Schaeffer; and

WHEREAS, her many significant contributions to the Walking Horse industry have been recognized through her induction into the Northwest Saddlebred Hall of Fame; other achievements include winning the Northwest Walking Horse Trainers Association's Trainer of Year award twice and the 2006 High Point Trainer Award for the Northwest region; and

WHEREAS, Diane Gueck continues to be an invaluable asset to the Walking Horse industry in many different roles, including meritorious service on the Celebration's Advisory Board in 1986 and 1987 and as a corporate sponsor for several years; and

WHEREAS, her astute judgement and Walking Horse expertise was utilized as a judge in the equitation and trail classes at the 1991 Celebration, at the NHSC for many years, and as an active participant at several judging clinics throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gueck has also shared her amazing Walking Horse knowledge by penning articles for *Saddle & Bridle Magazine*, producing nine training videos, and teaching clinics in the United States and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Diane Gueck is supremely honored to be a TWHNC Hall of Fame inductee and considers the honor to be the culmination of her dreams; she also credits her daughter, Sharon, for helping her to achieve her goals; and

WHEREAS, by means of this induction into the TWHNC Hall of Fame, Mrs. Diane Gueck has earned the ultimate accolade given by the Walking Horse industry, and we should pay homage to her life of purpose, commitment, and accomplishment on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby acknowledge and commend Mrs. Diane Gueck on the occasion of her induction into the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration Hall of Fame, commend her for her sterling service to the Walking Horse industry and the State of Tennessee, and extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.